



---

---

Leesville Lake Association  
*All Hands News*  
“A Blue Jewel near the Blue Ridge”

---

---

### **PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Happy Spring to you and your family! Your Association Board is excited about the opportunities we have to serve you and the Leesville Lake Community. We sincerely hope you will endeavor to work with us as we strive to increase our efforts to improve life on Leesville Lake.

We have several new board members and new committee members who have volunteered to provide their talents to serve our community. This is what makes our association successful in addressing the needs of our lake. I am excited concerning the professionalism of the members of the Board and those who have agreed to serve on the important Board Committees. We are fortunate to have such outstanding people living in our community who are willing to give their time and talents to making life on the lake even more enjoyable.

New ideas and approaches are being implemented this year to make our Association more efficient and effective. You will read about several of these changes. A new approach to collecting dues is being implemented as well as exploring new ideas as to how we relate to the County Boards that govern Leesville Lake. A new map of Leesville Lake is being developed in conjunction with Appalachian Power Company. Thanks to Bill Marshall who started this effort when he was president and has continued to provide valuable assistance in helping to develop a comprehensive map of the lake and immediate area. Navigational Aids to assist boaters are being explored in conjunction with Appalachian Power Company as to kind and placement.

The Association became a member of the Tri-County Lakes Commission a couple of years ago and made every effort to work within that organization for the good of Leesville Lake. However it became obvious that Leesville Lake was not being served as promised and efforts within this organization were not working. As a result your Association Board of Directors voted to request that a separate arrangement be made with the three Counties supporting Leesville Lake. Discussions are underway with the Administrators of Campbell, Bedford and Pittsylvania Counties to explore how the citizens of the Leesville Lake community can best be served.

As you can see your Association is working very hard to insure the Leesville Lake community continues to improve and provide the best opportunity for its members to enjoy life on Leesville Lake. We appreciate your continued support.

Best regards,

Sherwood Zimmerman  
President

## Water Quality Report

The summer of 2016 marks the conclusion of the tenth year of the Leesville Lake Association's water quality program (initiated in 2007). The goals of the program are to ensure that our lake remains clean and healthy by monitoring water quality, to raise awareness of water quality issues and the importance of water quality, and to educate residents about factors that influence water quality and cause the lake to deteriorate more rapidly than necessary. Through the years, the committee has remained steadfast in addressing these commitments. In 2010, our efforts were enhanced by partnership with Dr. Thomas Shahady's environmental sciences program at Lynchburg College, which now performs analyses and has expanded our water sampling capabilities. This year Dr. Shahady has produced several newsletters that discuss important components of water quality, how they influence the health of the lake – from a human health perspective (bacteria) and from a lake health perspective (fish, aquatic vegetation and water chemistry). These newsletters can be found on the Leesville Association's website (see: <http://www.leesvillelake.org/lc-water-newsletter/>).

What can we say about the health of our lake? Quite succinctly, the lake's health remains very good, but we need to remain vigilant.

Leesville Lake exhibits unique features. The upper portion of our lake displays many features of rivers, with a natural current flow from Smith Mountain Lake Dam to Leesville Lake Dam. However, because the lake serves as a pump-storage reservoir for hydroelectric generation, water flow is reversed when water is pumped back to Smith Mountain Lake. In addition to flow reversals, the lake exhibits marked fluctuation in water levels. As our fishermen know, this means that fish habitats change rapidly and often. These flows mix the lake's water and appear to promote health of the lake.

Because massive quantities of water enter our lake during hydroelectric operations, water quality is influenced by the quality of water in Smith Mountain Lake. Fortunately, the water quality of our sister lake is excellent, so the influx of water from Smith Mountain Lake is generally beneficial. However, appropriate operation of the dam's generators is necessary to maintain good water quality. In particular, Appalachian Power began monitoring the dissolved oxygen content of water released into Leesville Lake in 2011 and has established protocols for preferentially passing water through generators from depths in Smith Mountain Lake that contain the most oxygen. They continue to monitor and improve their operations so that the life-sustaining oxygen content of water entering Leesville Lake remains viable.

In contrast to the positive effects of water influx from Smith Mountain Lake, water flowing from the Pigg River can present challenges to the health of our lake. This year, our lake faced a historic influx of debris from the Pigg River, with AEP personnel and our Beautification Day volunteers removing massive amounts of debris. More insidious than debris is the influx of bacteria, nutrients and sediment from the Pigg River. While the content of bacteria (*E. coli*) in the vast majority of our lake consistently remained low, the upper portion of the lake was challenged with higher bacterial loads than previously experienced, and on several occasions the *E. coli* content exceeded Virginia state standards from the mouth of the Pigg River to approximately a mile below Toller Ferry Bridge. In conjunction with Lynchburg College, state agencies and other groups, our Committee hopes to monitor and improve conditions in the Pigg River.

Over the years, the health of Leesville Lake has remained very good. Our lake continues to mature in a controlled fashion, without issues in parameters such as nitrogen, phosphorous, pH, dissolved oxygen, and chlorophyll that either reflect problems or can precede problems.

After a decade of water monitoring, we are confident that Leesville Lake remains in very good health. Our Association and its partners encourage all to enjoy the beauty and bounty of our lake.

Tony Capuco, Chair  
Water Quality Committee  
Leesville Lake Association

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

I am Sandra Harter and I'm currently a resident of Runaway Bay subdivision at Mile Marker 1. I've been asked to help with the membership drive for the Leesville Lake Association and in turn need your help. I can be reached at [sandraharter@gmail.com](mailto:sandraharter@gmail.com).

This year we will be making changes to the billing cycle and how we collect membership dues. But one thing that is staying the same is the low rate of \$25 per household for membership. Billing for dues will be once a year rather than billing quarterly. The billing will go out July 1st and will be due by August 31st for the fiscal year September 2017-Aug 31, 2018. We are promoting a Paperless Association and attempting to be as green as possible. Please provide to us an updated email address. If you do not have email, we will mail a hard copy. Also, if your contact information has changed, please update that as well.

In addition to changing the billing cycle, we will also be offering online payment options using a credit, debit or ACH. Naturally you will still be able to pay with a check as you have in the past.

As new people continue to learn about this hidden jewel we call Leesville Lake, we anticipate an increase in families living on the lake. We are always seeking more members with fresh ideas. If you know of someone who is not a member, please let them know what an important organization we are and suggest they become a member as we need more people to get involved with protecting our little bit of paradise.

Sandra Harter, Chair  
Membership Committee

## Beautification Day (June 10, 2017)

Mark your calendars for June 10, 2017. All members are encouraged to lend a hand at our biggest and most important safety effort of the year, our 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Beautification and Volunteer Appreciation Day.

Especially needed are folks who will pilot boats or who will work on a vessel to pick up and haul debris to a collection site. If you can provide a vessel or will help onboard, please contact one of the organizers. Tarps are available for those who wish to protect their boats.

If you don't have a boat, sign up to come to one of the collection sites to help offload boats and fill the dumpsters. Even cheerleaders can be helpful! A big thank you to all that were involved with last year's four collection sites, Leesville lake Marina, Tri-County Marina, Runaway Bay and Broomfield. We filled 8 dumpsters, a new record, which was about 40 tons of debris.

Organizers of this event are Dannie Smith, Sherwood Zimmerman, Sam Skillman and Tom Harkness. Pat Kuhrtz is planning to work with Bob Rankin again this year to design a volunteer appreciation T-shirt to be given to participants.

Watch for more details by E-mail or our Website, <http://www.leesvillelake.org>. To help by boat or at a collection site contact Dannie at [Dannie.Gail@gmail.com](mailto:Dannie.Gail@gmail.com) or 434-841-9313, Sherwood at [SPIZM@VERIZON.NET](mailto:SPIZM@VERIZON.NET) or 434-656-1826 or Sam at 434-309-9988.

Remember, more "hands on the net" will make for easier work and will be more fun. So please set aside June 10<sup>th</sup> to come and help clean up the lake to keep it safe for boating.

Dannie Smith